

Message Text

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51

ORIGIN AF-06

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DRAFTED BY ETF:RSBARRETT:NB

APPROVED BY ETF:RSBARRETT

EUR/WE:HMOEN

S/S/O: PJOHNSON

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P R 021530Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, ET, US

SUBJECT: ITALIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

REF: A)STATE 026405; B) STATE 040666

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS, ON INSTRUCTION FROM ROME, OFFICIALLY REQUESTED AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN GETTING "PARCEL" OF EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES FROM ADDIS ABABA TO ITALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN ASMARA. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM ROME "AMERICAN AUTHORITIES" IN ADDIS HAD SO FAR REFUSED REQUESTES TRANSPORT THIS ITEM ON VARIOUS FLIGHTS GOING TO ASMARA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE UNDERSTANDING GOVERNING THE FLIGHTS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS SPECIFIED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE USED TO TRANSPORT ITEMS OR PERSONNEL BELONGING TO OTHER PARTIES. ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS REFERRED TO PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ORTONA AND DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING PRESENT DIFFICULT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA (REFS. A AND B)

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2. WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON THIS MATTER. IS

THERE SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING ON FLIGHTS? IF SO, WOULD AN
EXCEPTION TO IT BE POSSIBLE AT AMERICAN OR ITALIAN REQUEST
TO ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES? OR IS ITEM IN QUESTION SMALL

ENOUGH TO BE SENT AS APO PACKAGE FOR PRIVATE DELIVERY?
WE REALIZE DIFFICULTIES FACED AND GREAT NUMBER OF RESPON-
SIBILITIES WHICH EMBASSY HAS BUT AS WE INFORMED ORTONA
THAT WE WISHED TO BE COOPERATIVE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS
MATTER DISPOSED OF IF POSSIBLE. INGERSOLL

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